

GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 15 December, 1997.

Chairman: Councillor R M Armitage.

Apologies: City Councillor B J Bailey, City Councillor J R Boughton.

Present: Councillors Antrobus, Armitage, Astbury, Fisher, Gartland, Hughes, Patten, Whitehouse.

In attendance: County Councillor N J Fitton.

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 10 November, 1997 were proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Mrs Patten and agreed.

2. Planning.

(i) New applications.

97/01302/FUL, extension at 1 Vicarage Close for Mr L Stephani. Further inquiries had been made by Councillor Gartland who had consulted Councillor Whitehouse. Following a report, it was resolved that no objection should be raised. The Clerk would enquire as to the ownership of the access between nos 1 and 3 Vicarage Close which it was thought had been provided by the original developer although its current status was unclear and part of the access had been incorporated within a domestic curtilage.

97/01399/FUL, loft conversion at 5 Moorcroft Crescent for Mr and Mrs M Mooney. Following a report by Councillor Mrs Astbury, it was agreed that no objection should be raised. It was noted the proposal was subject to the implementation of additional fire precautions in accordance with building regulations.

97/01433/FUL, alterations to dwelling at 117 Oaklands for Mr S Parkin. It was noted that construction work was already in

progress for this small development and that the application had been submitted in accordance with the withdrawal of permitted development rights on the Oaklands estate. Further inquiries would be made by Councillor Gartland.

(ii) Decision notices.

97/01159/S73, removal of condition on planning permission 97/00241/FUL to reinstate permitted development rights at Whitegates, Park Lane, Littleton for Mr P Edge. The Clerk reported, by extract from the minutes of the Planning sub committee, that this application had been refused. He further reported, by letter from the planning authority, an appeal by the applicant which was to be determined by written submissions. The advice of the planning authority had been sought as to whether the Council should re-submit their previous observations.

(iii) Current Applications:

6/23216 etc. new farm house and farm buildings at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane for Mr S J Arden. (See 96/00881/FUL below).

93/1386/REM development adjacent to Ivy Cottage, School Lane for Mr and Mrs Williams. Nothing further to report at this stage.

94/01053/FUL, McKenzie King/Topaz/Norwest Metalising, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the alleged breach of environmental controls which was being pursued by the Environment Agency.

95/01046/FUL, COU of redundant farm buildings to 8 no dwellings, swimming pool, tennis court, garages, driveway and improvements to the highway at The Byatts, Wicker Lane for Kilmorey Estates. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the breaching of hedges and the position of a new access to Wicker Lane to be formed as part of the development.

95/01052/FUL, alterations to dwelling and COU to form garden at The Bungalow, Church Lane for Mrs C Jones. The proposed improvement to the remaining area of open space adjoining the footway from Church Lane to Fox Cover would be pursued following the erection of the permanent fencing to the application site.

95/01166/FUL, two storey extension at Post Cottage, Guilden Sutton Lane for Mr R Fox. The revised application was awaited.

96/00359/FUL, children's day nursery, Wildings Yard for A V Wilding (Chester) Ltd. It was noted that construction of the development was in progress. Members revisited a concern as to a future change of use and the advice of the planning authority that such a change would require planning approval.

96/00881/FUL, liquid fertiliser storage lagoon (landscape proposals) at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane for Mr S J Arden. No objection had been raised. The Clerk had informed Councillors Antrobus and Patten of the decision of the November council and furnished the plans of the proposal for their perusal.

15 metre mast, two microwave dishes, equipment cabin etc. adjoining A 55 and Cheshire County Council Engineering Services depot for Orange Personal Communications. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

97/00554/FUL, extensions and alterations to Vicars Cross Golf Club House. The decision notice was awaited.

97/00767/FUL, rear extension to accommodate swimming pool at The Brambles, Belle Vue Lane for Mr D Sandoz. Nothing further to report at this stage.

97/01017/FUL, extension to single garage to form double garage at 5 School Lane for Mr D Everton. It was noted that construction was proceeding.

97/01056/FUL, replacement of flat roofs to garage and porch with pitch roofs at 18 Oaklands for Mr D Smith. No objection had been raised although the attention of the planning authority had been drawn to the fact the immediately adjoining occupier at no 20 Oaklands had not been notified and believed part of the proposed pitched roofing might overhang his property. Similarly they had been advised the occupier of no 10 Oaklands which directly overlooked the proposal had not been consulted. The Council had also asked for the pitch of the new roofs to be in keeping if this was possible. The decision notice was awaited.

97/01146/S73, extension of time period on previous planning permission 6/25443 for erection of circular underground

reservoir off Guilden Sutton Lane for Chester Waterworks Company. The objection by Mrs Astle that the scheme should be relocated to the west or north of the existing reservoir in order to minimise the impact on residential property in Guilden Sutton Lane had been supported. The planning authority had been informed the Council would wish to see the overall height of the proposal reduced to two metres with a high standard of landscaping and that any further development on the site should not be allowed.

Should the planning authority be minded to agree the proposal, the Council had indicated they would wish to see a similar height condition with high standard landscaping to a depth of 15 metres to Guilden Sutton Lane. Access should be from the existing entrance with the field gate to block 1890 being closed on a permanent basis. No further development should be permitted and a tree, believed to be a black poplar, in proximity to the application site, should be protected. The advice of the Cheshire Landscape Trust had been sought on this latter point.

The Council's views had been referred to Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council seeking their support and copied to the occupiers of nos. 2 - 8 Guilden Sutton Lane and to Mr Hassall. The decision notice was awaited.

(iv) General:

(a) Conservation Area Status.

The Council's dissatisfaction as to the unsatisfactory handling of this matter had been visited during the discussions with Mr Jones (above).

(b) Shortfall in open space provision.

The Council's dissatisfaction as to the previous unsatisfactory progress with this matter, now resolved, had been visited during the discussions with Mr Jones (above)

(c) Parish Planning Forum.

The Clerk reported he had contacted the Development Control Manager as to the draft of the proposed planning guidance for parish councils. The importance of timely progress in this matter had been emphasised by the Chairman during the discussion

with Mr Jones (above).

(d) Chester City Council: Nature Conservation Strategy Update.

Councillor Gartland reported the actions laid down within the strategy could be supported. This was noted.

(e) Chester City Council: Chester district landscape character assessment and guidelines.

Councillor Gartland reported the proposals encompassed by these guidelines should be applauded and supported. The City Council would be informed.

(f) Party Wall etc. Act 1996.

Councillor Fisher reported this new legislation, details of which had been obtained by the Clerk, would enable planning authorities to introduce mechanisms for the resolution of any boundary disputes where property was built on. This was noted.

(v) Strategic planning.

(a) Chester District Local Plan.

Copies of a newsletter summarising the proposals had been circulated to each Member.

The Clerk reported that comments should be submitted on the prescribed forms by Thursday 13 November, 1997 and reported the receipt by letter of a communication from the Chester District Branch of the CPRE highlighting a range of issues which had been referred to the Chairman.

On policy DTR5, the Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 30 October, 1997, of concerns expressed by City Councillor J R Boughton as to the impact of this proposed policy which envisaged a cycleway along Station Lane, Wicker Lane and the Longster Trail. It was noted the proposals map indicated a variation to include Church Lane and Cinder Lane. City Councillor Boughton referred to the opposition of Great Barrow Parish Council, together with the landowners and tenant farmers concerned, including Mr Arden and invited the Council to reach a view. Having considered the matter, Members reached a

consensus that safe cycle routes should be provided to and from Chester and Upton County High School, using the proposed cycleway on the Mickle Trafford - Shotton railway line but believed that any extension of the policy to the rural area required further thought. It was also agreed that any provision should form part of a comprehensive network.

The Council would support the proposal that no land should be taken from the Green belt in the plan period to 2011, particularly so far as the Green Belt to the East of Chester between the A 41 and A55/M53 was concerned.

An objection would be raised to the decision not to include an area of land previously submitted for inclusion in DENV19 given that immediately adjoining areas were safeguarded and there was no justification for differentiation.

The DENV19 policy would be supported, particularly in so far as it applied to land between Ranelagh and The Wood, School Lane.

Proposals to control development within the rural area by limited allocations for housing and a strict policy on in fill development would be supported.

(b) Cheshire 2011.

It was noted the Examination in Public had concluded.

(c) Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan.

The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 21 October, 1997 of notification of modifications to the consultation draft of this plan, considered in Spring 1997 and inviting representations by 15 December, 1997. It was agreed the Council would not wish to make any further comment.

(d) Lower Mersey Local Environment Agency Plan.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

(e) Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan.

The Clerk reported the receipt of this consultation draft which was referred to the Chairman.

3. Parish Car Park.

The Clerk reported the City Council's tree consultant Mr P Smith had been invited to re-inspect the trees to confirm the work or otherwise which was necessary in view of the time which had elapsed since the initial inspection by the Temporary Tree Officer. Mr Smith had indicated he was more than happy to visit and a site meeting would be arranged at a date convenient to Councillor Gartland, Parish Tree Warden, who would represent the Council's interest. The Clerk would furnish Councillor Gartland with copies of the relevant correspondence.

Members revisited the remarks of the adjudicators of the Best Kept Village Competition as to the poor standard of maintenance of the car park and banking. This would be visited with the contractor as part of the site visit referred to at 4 (i).

4. Leisure Services.

(i) Playing field.

The Clerk was assisting the Chairman in pursuing the proposed site meeting with the grounds maintenance contractor to discuss the cutting of the rear hedge and the maintenance of the roadside ditch.

(ii) Play Area.

It was not known if the City Council's Direct Services Organisation had carried out the requested repairs to the see saw and this would be inspected. Similarly there was no report as to whether the Graffiti Busters had dealt with the graffiti which had been reported.

97/98 082

The Clerk reported the receipt, by note, of concerns expressed by City Councillor J R Boughton as to the quantity of litter in the play area. This was verified by Councillor Mrs Antrobus. Members confirmed that in recent months there had been no evidence of raking to the play bark and this would be raised with the contractor as part of the site visit referred to at 4 (i).

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Parish Paths Partnership.

Councillor Hughes confirmed that a colour proof of the proposed map of parish footpaths was expected in the near future.

The condition of Footpath no 2 had been reported to the Area Engineer. Councillor Hughes confirmed that appropriate action had been taken to restore the path to an extremely satisfactory condition although it was not known which authority had carried out the work.

Repairs to the stile upright close to Polruan were being pursued by Councillor Hughes.

(iv) Pond Life Project.

The Clerk reported a planning application had been submitted to locate the national headquarters of the project at the North of England Zoological Gardens.

(v) Grounds Maintenance.

See 4 (i) above.

5. Public Transport.

(i) Services: general.

(a) Sunday Service to Guilden Sutton.

It was understood City Councillor J R Boughton was awaiting confirmation of the expected start date of the experimental Sunday service which would enable the Clerk to include appropriate publicity in the newsletter. The next issue, due to appear on Thursday 27 November, 1997 would include a non-committal reference and the Clerk would liaise with the Transport Co-ordination Service as to material for inclusion in the subsequent issue.

(b) Punctuality.

There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the late running of the 1410 ex Chester Bus Exchange to the

inconvenience of parents of children attending the primary school.

(c) Closure of Green Lane.

The Clerk reported an imminent lengthy closure of Green Lane to enable traffic calming measures to be installed. He had been unable to ascertain the arrangements for public transport services and had alerted the Transport Co-ordination Service to the use of the existing bus service by local residents wishing to reach the Green Lane shops, post office, chemist and library. He would advise Members should information come to hand. 97/98 083

(d) 1710 Chester - Guilden Sutton

The Clerk reported he had been made aware this service now operated to Kelsall and it was understood had caused some confusion for intending passengers, particularly those boarding at other than the Bus Exchange. Councillor Mrs Astbury referred to her belief the destination appeared as 'Kelsall via Guilden Sutton'. The matter would be clarified.

(ii) Rural Transport Information Point.

The Clerk had confirmed with the Transport Co-ordination Service the arrangements which should be followed when affixing the rural transport information point to part of the boundary wall of 'Select'.

6. Highways.

(i) Major schemes.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Local matters.

(a) Wicker Lane.

It was not known if action had been taken by Chester Water Company to deal with the trip hazard reported to them at the junction of Wicker Lane and Cinder Lane. Councillor Mrs Antrobus intimated that no further action need be taken.

(b) A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane.

The Clerk said he understood there had been a recent road traffic accident involving a car turning from the gap being struck by an approaching vehicle.

(c) Belle Vue Lane.

Further to minute 6 (ii) c of the previous meeting, the Clerk reported he had forwarded a further letter to the Area Engineer seeking completion of the scheme. He reported the receipt, by letter dated 21 October, 1997, of vigorous representations to the same effect by City Councillor J R Boughton which inter alia sought action before the onset of severe winter conditions.

(d) Footway, Cinder Lane.

The need for the surface to be swept was being kept under review.

(e) Cinder Lane - Church Lane.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

(f) Speed limit, Guilden Sutton Lane.

The Clerk reported the receipt, by facsimile dated 12 October, 1997, of confirmation by County Councillor N J Fitton that he had approached the County Engineer as to the provision of high visibility markings to reinforce the 30 mph limit at the approach to the playing field access. He confirmed the Area Engineer had been requested in the interim to reinstate the existing 'slow' marking in the carriageway, part of which had been removed by resurfacing works.

Councillor Mrs Astbury understood the Order was to be introduced in January, 1998. This would be clarified with City Councillor J R Boughton and J Gamlen, Principal Traffic Engineer, who would be pressed to secure early implementation.

(g) Moorcroft Crescent.

There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the

resurfacing of this road.

(h) Parking, Hill Top Road.

There was nothing further to report with respect to the parking of large agricultural contracting vehicles and equipment in Hill Top Road and on the Village Hall car park.

(i) Footway - Middlecroft.

There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the condition of the footway in the vicinity of 4/6 Middlecroft which had been brought to the attention of the Area Engineer.

(j) Grass cutting - Heath Bank.

Members revisited their concerns as to the lack of maintenance of this area during the current season. The present condition was confirmed as very poor by Councillor Mrs Astbury. The matter would be pursued with the Area Engineer.

(k) Closure - Wicker Lane.

The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 16 October, 1997 of consultation by the highway authority on a proposal to close Wicker Lane for five days from 10 November, 1997 to allow road repairs to be carried out. He had advised the Chairman who had intimated no objection subject to appropriate notification, signing and making good of any carriageway markings obscured by the repairs. It was reported that repairs were in progress on the narrow section of road closest to the A 51 with remedials elsewhere.

(l) Footway - Oaklands.

Councillor Fisher referred to the uneven condition of the footway on part of Oaklands due to the growth of tree roots. The advice of the Area Engineer would be sought.

97/98 085

(m) Minor Improvements.

City Councillor J R Boughton referred to the long standing minor

improvements proposed for Wicker Lane in the vicinity of the golf club and for the junctions of Wicker Lane and Church Lane and Wicker Lane and School Lane which were still accorded extremely low priority in the highway authority's minor improvements list for 1998/99. This was noted.

(iii) street lighting.

Nothing to report.

7. Finance:

(i) income.

Bank of Scotland

interest £ 30.89

(ii) payments.

Glendale

grounds maintenance

August, September 1997 £ 223.84*

Chester Standard

newsletter distribution £ 15.27

Clerk

reimbursement of IT equipment £ 268.00

Royal British Legion

wreath £ 13.50

* payment remains withheld from previous month pending resolution of dispute with contractor

Proposed by Councillor Hughes

seconded by Councillor Fisher

and agreed.

(iii) balances

Natwest Business Reserve £ 0.04

Bank of Scotland £7,888.76

(iv) banking arrangements.

The Clerk reported he would deal with the remaining transfer of funds, viz. the late accrual of interest to the Natwest Business Reserve account, to the Bank of Scotland.

(v) Audit.

The Clerk advised Members he was continuing his efforts to verify the derivation of certain amendments with the Council's records. The Chairman would sign the memorandum of matters arising in due course.

(vi) Half year analysis.

The Clerk presented a summary half year analysis of expenditure. This would be updated and expanded to include an income analysis and forecasts of future expenditure and balances for consideration at the December meeting as the first stage of the budget process.

8. Access to school.

(i) improvement scheme.

The Clerk reported he had been advised it would be appropriate to pursue the proposed site meeting with the Manager, Parks and Open Spaces, Chester City Council with Mr I Makins in view of the illness of the Manager. Councillor Hughes confirmed his preference for this to take place on a Friday.

9. Environment services:

(i) amenity cleansing.

Councillor B J Bailey had been thanked for arranging for the scavenging by the City Council of the field accesses in Belle Vue Lane and the water company access in Guilden Sutton Lane.

(ii) dog fouling.

It was not thought any action had yet been taken by the City Council as to the request from an adjoining occupier for the provision of a dog fouling notice for the dell.

With respect to the irregular emptying of the canine faeces bins to the rear of Orchard Croft by the City Council contractor, it was noted that this matter had been visited during the discussion with Mr S Jones (see above) and that an assurance had been received that a permanent improvement in service would be achieved. This was welcomed.

The Clerk reported that further to the receipt of correspondence from City Councillor J R Boughton, relating to the introduction of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, reported to the previous meeting, he had written to City Councillor Boughton warmly endorsing his comments. This was noted.

(iii) Litter bins.

With respect to the irregular emptying of litter bins throughout the parish by the City Council contractor, it was noted that this matter had been visited during the discussion with Mr S Jones (see above) and that an assurance had been received that a permanent improvement in service would be achieved. This was welcomed.

(iv) lengthsman.

It was not known if the lengthsman had dealt with Footpath no 2 and the Fox Cover - Church Lane steps as requested. This would be kept under review.

In the absence of Councillor Whitehouse, it was not known if any additional cleansing by the lengthsman had taken place following

the annual fall or if the additional scavenge of the verge and ditch to the west side of Belle Vue Lane to deal with the volume of litter which had been exposed by recent ditching had been pursued.

The Clerk reported he had informed the Services Manager, Chester City Council, of the Council's decision not to make a nomination for the Silver Broom Award.

(v) sewers

Nothing further to report at this stage.

10. Trees and hedges.

(i) Tree planting

The suggestion that the City Council might be interested in assisting with the disposal of the surplus trees which had been offered to the Parish by a local resident had been pursued by Councillor Gartland, Parish Tree Warden, who reported a site meeting was to be held on Wednesday 12 November, 1997. This was welcomed. No further action would be taken at this stage to identify possible sites within the parish suitable for further planting.

(ii) Overhanging bush, Oaklands.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Millennium Yew

It was understood that the Rev Canon J A Malbon did not wish to pursue the suggestion in view of a proposal by the church to participate in the scheme. This was noted.

(iv) Oaklands TPO.

In connection with the review of additional trees to be submitted to the City Council for possible inclusion in future orders, Councillor Gartland, Parish Tree Warden, reported that no further proposals had been forthcoming. This was noted. The City Council would be advised accordingly.

(v) Oaks Millennium Trust.

See minute 20 (iii) below.

(vi) Hedgerow, Guilden Sutton Lane.

It was understood no further action was now required as to the obstruction of a narrow length of footway in Guilden Sutton Lane by an adjoining overgrown hedge which had been causing difficulties for mothers attempting to pass with prams. 97/98 088

(vii) hedge adjoining footpath no 2.

The Clerk reported he had pursued Members' concerns with Mr Arden who had been most appreciative of the Council's intentions. He believed, however, that the forthcoming publication of the parish footpaths guide would be helpful in minimising the problem of trespass from this point. Mr Arden had suggested a discrete direction sign referring bona fide walkers to the correct path might also be helpful.

(viii) Verges in the vicinity of Willow Cottage.

The Clerk reported he was pursuing the complaint by Mrs E Hughes with respect to the condition of verges on Guilden Sutton Lane in the vicinity of Willow Cottage. The matter had been raised with the Area Engineer from which it had emerged that responsibility might rest with the County planning authority. This was being clarified.

(ix) Black Poplar.

The Clerk reported he had sought advice as to the possible Black Poplar in the vicinity of the proposed underground storage reservoir from the Cheshire Landscape Trust which had carried out a recent audit of the species.

11. Cheshire Association of Parish Councils.

(i) Local Council Review, November 1997.

Received and circulated.

12. Chester City Council.

(i) Chester District History of Parish Government Project.

The Clerk was completing a questionnaire relating to this project.

(ii) Funding Opportunities.

A questionnaire was being completed by the Clerk.

(iii) Relationships with the City Council.

See above. It was now anticipated there would be a follow up by Mr Durham when the City Council's statement of their proposed relationships with Parishes had been published.

(iv) Parish Partnership Reception.

It was noted that the Chairman and Clerk had represented the Council at the 1997 Parish Partnership Reception held on 16 October, 1997. Both the Chairman and the Clerk reported they had found the evening to be extremely useful and had raised a range of issues with Members and officers of the City Council.

(v) Christmas Parcel Appeal 1997

The Clerk reported he had progressed the letter received from the Lord Mayor giving details of the Christmas Parcel Appeal 1997 with Mr G Bebbington and a number of nominations had been made.

(vi) Council meeting 5 November, 1997

The minutes for this meeting were received and referred to Councillor Gartland.

13. Cheshire County Council.

(i) Teach ins for town and parish councils.

Mr R Manley OBE, County Community and Youth Manager had been thanked for forwarding the notes on this series of teach ins.

(ii) Road Safety Matters Autumn 1997.

The County Road Safety Officer had been thanked for forwarding a copy of this newsletter.

(iii) Cheshire Fire Brigade - fire safety material.

The County Fire Officer had been thanked for forwarding this material.

14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Cheshire Best Kept Village Competition.

The Clerk would include the adjudicator's comments in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter. Appropriate action would be taken where comments had revealed the care of facilities within the Council's control had been less than satisfactory.

(ii) Survey of rural services.

The Clerk was completing a detailed questionnaire as part of a national survey.

(iii) Annual meeting.

Members noted with pleasure that it had been possible for the Council to be represented by Councillor Gartland at this meeting, held at Reaseheath College on Wednesday 22 October, 1997. Councillor Gartland reported on an extremely worthwhile meeting and was thanked for his attendance. The minutes of the meeting were received and noted.

(iv) Cheshire Cauldron October 1997

Received and noted.

15. CPRE.

(i) Transport study with a rural perspective.

In the absence of Councillor Whitehouse, it was not known if it had been possible for the Council to be represented at this seminar, held in Middlewich on Saturday 1 November 1997.

16. Health.

Nothing to report.

17. Policing matters.

(i) Cheshire Rural Parish Challenge.

The Clerk reported he had been contacted by PC Pye who had provided details of this scheme. Matching funds were available up to £2000 for a range of community schemes, particularly those involving youth. This was noted.

(ii) Nuisance.

The Clerk reported it was understood PC Pye was aware of the recent concerns discussed by Members.

(iii) Policing.

The closure of the Saughall police office had been pursued with the Divisional Commander, together with unconfirmed suggestions that policing in the rural area was to be reduced. A response was awaited. PC Pye had indicated to the Clerk that alternative provision was under consideration which would benefit the parish. This was welcomed. The Clerk would contact the editor of 'The Marigold' to discuss the information to be shown therein.

(iv) Chester Police Forum.

The minutes of the meeting of the forum held on Monday 15 September 1997 were received and noted. The attendance of Members of the Council at future meetings would be visited at the December meeting.

(v) Cheshire Police annual report.

Received and noted.

(vi) Getting to Grips with Crime.

A copy of a consultation paper on this Government initiative had been obtained by the Clerk and was received and noted.

18. Newsletter.

Advertising. The letter received from a firm of solicitors seeking to advertise in the newsletter was being pursued by the Clerk.
97/98 091

19. Millennium Celebrations.

(i) Parish.

The Chairman reported that useful progress had been made at the second meeting held on 28 October 1997. A range of suggestions had been made both to celebrate the millennium and for activities between now and then. These included a time capsule project by the school involving the planting of a tree in the school grounds and the possible purchase of land for community recreational purposes. A proposal for community carol singing at the Village Hall on 22 December 1997 at 6.30pm was to be pursued. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman and agreed that the Council would fund the purchase of a Christmas Tree at a cost not exceeding £40. The possible availability of existing lights would be pursued by Councillor Gartland. Inquiries would be made by the Clerk as to the availability of brass players. The next meeting of the committee was to be held on 2 December, 1997 in the Village Hall would be publicised in the forthcoming issue of the newsletter. The community carol singing would be publicised in the subsequent issue.

(ii) City.

The Chairman reported the 'time' project promoted by City Councillor B J Bailey had been noted at the meeting of the parish committee held on 28 October, 1997.

(iii) Millennium Greens.

It was noted the Millennium Green initiative would be raised by the Chairman.

20. Memorial Garden.

(a) Sycamore.

The Clerk reported the City Council's tree consultant Mr P Smith had been invited to re-inspect the tree to confirm the work or otherwise which was necessary in view of the time which had elapsed since the initial inspection by the Temporary Tree Officer. Mr Smith had indicated he was more than happy to visit and a site meeting would be arranged at a date convenient to Councillor Gartland, Parish Tree Warden, who would represent the Council's interest. The Clerk would furnish Councillor Gartland with copies of the relevant correspondence.

(b) Remembrance Sunday.

Mr and Mrs Hughes would be thanked for kindly tidying the Memorial for the annual service and throughout the year.

21. Bulb planting.

Members revisited their discussion as to suitable sites where additional planting might take place.

22. Land adjoining 2 Summerfield Road.

The complaints regarding the condition of this land had been raised with the landowner. A response was awaited.

23. Periodic Electoral Review.

The recommendations of the Local Government Commission were awaited.

24. Gas Supply - Arrowcroft Road.

Councillor Gartland confirmed the issue connected with the provision of a gas supply to a number of properties in Arrowcroft Road was being progressed with City Councillor J R Boughton.

25. Web site.

The Council welcomed the intimation by Mr S Jones that he would be happy to discuss this proposal with Councillor Hughes.

26. Remembrance Sunday.

The service at Guilden Sutton Methodist Church on Sunday 9 November, 1997 had been attended by the Chairman and Members of the Council. A wreath had been laid by the Chairman in memory of the fallen.

27. Sunday re-instatement.

Councillor Hughes reported he had been contacted by a resident of Cinder Lane as to reinstatement works carried out by contractors to the Chester Water Company which had caused disturbance at a relatively early hour on a Sunday morning. He had discussed the complaint with the Clerk who had advised the resident to contact the managing director of the company in view of the company's known views on the handling of customer complaints. This was noted.

28. Purchase of land in the green belt.

Councillor Hughes referred to the purchase of land in the green belt for an intended dwelling by a resident who had subsequently moved from the parish. The Clerk indicated he had discussed the Council's position with the resident concerned prior to the purchase and had advised he should take professional advice as the Council would oppose development in the strongest possible terms and would encourage the planning authority to do likewise. This was noted.

29. Rats: Station Lane/School Lane.

Councillor Fisher reported he had been made aware of the presence of rats in the vicinity of the War Memorial. This would be drawn to the attention of the environmental health officers.

MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Fisher and agreed that the press and public should be excluded for the discussion of the following items on the grounds of (i) and (ii) possible enforcement action (iii) details of an individual employee.

30. Enforcement - storage of plant.

A copy of the correspondence relating to the storage of plant in a domestic curtilage had been forwarded to City Councillor J R Boughton for clarification. City Councillor Boughton had confirmed he was progressing the matter with the enforcement officer.

31. The Lodge, School Lane.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a complaint as to a possible breach of the occupancy conditions attached to the outbuildings of this property. The complainant was pursuing the concern with the enforcement officer and City Councillor J R Boughton had intervened following advice to the complainant by the Clerk. The enforcement officer had advised the Clerk of the circumstances in which action could be taken and City Councillor Boughton had requested a response to a number of issues. The Chairman expressed the Council's disquiet should the City Council be unable to take action. A member expressed unhappiness at the process described to the Clerk. This was noted.

32. Clerk's salary and expenses.

It was noted the Clerk had written to the Chairman expressing his thanks for the Council's consideration of the annual revision to his salary based on the recommended national scale and for the reimbursement of expenses connected with the purchase of IT equipment.